MONTE CRISTO WITH A TWIST
PICNIC TREAT {page 15}

VAMPIRES
AUTHOR EXPLAINS WHAT'S DIFFERENT
INTERVIEW {page 10}

CALGARY metro®

Wednesday, July 7, 2010
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FIFA. Semifinal

▶ Dutch players are all smiles.

DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

Dutch trek on to World Cup final

Giovanni Van Bronckhorst and Wesley Sneijder of the Netherlands celebrate victory during the World Cup semifinal match between Uruguay and the Netherlands in Cape Town, South Africa, yesterday. More coverage, pages 3, 18 & 19.

Avalon adds pizzazz to sedan

Toyota rejigs its classic car to entice younger drivers {page 21}

Downtown cop patrols at risk

Police may be redeployed to other areas in city {page 4}

Projectile road debris kills driver

▶ Circular brake drum weighed 30 lbs, vehicles were travelling at 80 km/h ▶ Police urge citizens to call 911 when they see dangerous debris on busy roads

KRISTA SYLVESTER
@METRONEWS.CA

Police are urging commercial truck drivers to check their vehicles for a missing brake drum after a Calgary woman was killed when the object shot through her window on the Trans-Canada Highway.

The woman, 25, was driving alone in her Toyota SUV, heading west when a semi drove over the drum, sending it hurtling through her front windshield Monday night. The woman died in hospital yesterday.

Traffic unit Staff Sgt. Colin Foster said police believe the piece fell off of a commercial vehicle that may have been heading to B.C.

They are pleading with drivers to check their mechanics and come forward to police.

"The driver may not even know they are missing the brake drum," Foster said, adding police "owe it to the family" to find out where it came from.

Foster said the incident happened so quickly that there was no way to avoid the brake drum.

"This is exceptionally rare. I'm convinced the young woman wouldn't even have known. It happened so fast."

He couldn't say for sure whether the vehicle the drum originated from was "up to snuff."

The driver of the semi that hit the debris stayed on scene and was co-operative.

Police are not releasing the name of the victim.

SAFETY

Official stresses importance of commercial vehicle checkups

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

▶ Trans-Canada traffic at Stoney Trail NW.

Transportation Alberta spokesperson Trent Bancarz says it's very important that commercial vehicles get regular mechanical checkups, though he isn't saying that anyone is to blame for the rare incident that led to a woman's death.

"There are rules and regulations in place for a reason, and it's to ensure everyone is safe. Safety is the number one priority for commercial vehicles on the road, or any vehicles on the road," he told Metro.

KRISTA SYLVESTER

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AMVIC LICENSED

Hup Holland! Soccer fans paint town Oranje

KATIE TURNER
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

Decked out in orange, fans of the Dutch national soccer team lined up outside the Ship and Anchor yesterday afternoon to cheer for the Oranje in the World Cup.

Despite it being a weekday afternoon, the 17th Avenue pub was filled to capacity with fans, who watched their team defeat Uruguay 3-2 in the semifinal match.

For Evan Fournier, the game was a family affair with both of his grandparents and several cousins coming to the Ship and Anchor to watch the game.

"My family is from (the Netherlands)," said Fournier.

"I've cheered for them all my life and I just want them to win."

During the half-time break, Fournier and some of his family members took to the street outside the pub for some ball handling of their own.

Other pub-goers and people on the street joined in — until the call of "Game on!" came from inside the bar.

"It's not over yet, so hopefully they can break through and make it to the final," said Fournier.

KATIE TURNER/FOR METRO CALGARY

▶ Evan Fournier and family kick the ball around outside the Ship and Anchor yesterday.

University tells bike co-op to hit the road

Bike Root lets members borrow bikes at $10 per year 60 bikes available to group's 100 members

KRISTA SYLVESTER
@METRONEWS.CA

It may be the end of one path for a University of Calgary bike co-operative, but the group hopes to find a new home on campus for the bike library and repair shop.

Bike Root was issued a notice to vacate by July 30 out of their current home since mid-2008, located in the Murray Fraser loading dock.

U of C spokesperson James Stevenson said the home was temporary and the school needs to reoccupy the area.

"Unfortunately, the space at the facility is tight and we don't have anywhere else for them to go," he said.

Bike Root member Patricia Minor understands the decision, but wishes the school was more proactive. She adds that the school has been helpful, however.

"They have been really supportive and we're looking at a couple different options. We really hope to stay on campus," Minor said, adding the Students' Union has also been supportive.

Member Raza Omrani was disappointed to hear the news.

"I use the bike every day. This is really inconvenient, and I think the school should do more."

Visit the group's website at www.bikeroot.ca

KRISTA SYLVESTER/METRO CALGARY

▶ Bike Root member Patricia Minor prepares to pack away tons of bikes. The organization has to move out of its current location by the end of the month.

1 news

News on the move

1 Download the free ScanLife application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

2 Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone to scan 2D barcodes in Metro

3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to relevant content at m.metronews.ca

On the web at metronews.ca

Thousands bid farewell to the Queen as she wraps up her Canadian tour. Video at metronews.ca/canada

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News in brief

Advocate stops in Calgary

TOBACCO. Calgary is a stop today on Errol Povah's long march across Canada for a Tobacco-Free World, which began in Victoria May 31. Povah, a tobacco control advocate from Vancouver, plans to personally deliver a message to Benjamin Kemball, president and CEO of Imperial Tobacco, Canada's largest cigarette manufacturer and maker of Player's and du Maurier cigarettes.

METRO CALGARY

Sex offender found guilty

COURTS. A Calgary repeat sexual offender was found guilty yesterday of sexually assaulting a woman earlier this year. Henri Jean Rusk, 52, was also found guilty of attempting to breach release conditions. Sentencing arguments will commence Aug. 20. Rusk is one of two Calgary offenders monitored by police with a GPS anklet device.

METRO CALGARY

Youth sought in arsons

CRIME. Calgary police are looking for suspects after a rash of dumpster arsons in the southeast communities of Forest Lawn and Penbrooke Meadows between July 3 and July 5. Police say two youth on bicycles were acting suspiciously.

METRO CALGARY

Core patrols could be cut

Cancelled police training and recruitment programs cannot be made up, says Dooks ● After Clean to the Core program started with additional officers, 90 per cent of Calgarians said safety stayed the same or improved in the downtown

KATIE TURNER
CALGARY@METRONEWS.CA

METRO CALGARY FILE PHOTO

▶ Downtown cops could be redeployed around the city.

Downtown police patrols could be cut if the police service is forced to drop positions, leaving one business manager concerned for the safety of her staff.

On Monday, 4th Street Jugo juice was robbed and the potential of even less security downtown is unsettling, according to manager Fiona Wong.

"There's only one girl working at night," she said.

"All my staff are girls so their safety might be at risk."

Following council's decision Monday to defer talks about the Calgary Police Service budget until November, CPS was forced to cancel two training classes for the fall, meaning 65 positions won't be filled next year, said the Calgary Police Association head.

John Dooks said because of this, he would be asking the police chief to consider redeploying downtown beat officers to other areas of the city.

"We can't sustain this loss of manpower in the districts for the beat project if we don't have an end in sight for when the loss of manpower in the districts is going to be replaced," he said.

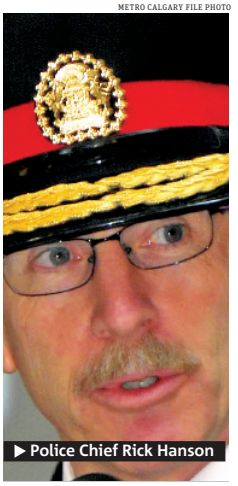
Dooks said it's unfortunate that cops may be taken out of the downtown as they've made huge strides in safety.

"The members on the street can't continue to do more with less."

$15M

Amount expected to be cut from the Calgary Police Service budget, according to police Chief Rick Hanson. CPS was meant to receive nearly $299 million in the third year of its budget agreement with the city.

METRO CALGARY FILE PHOTO



▶ Police Chief Rick Hanson

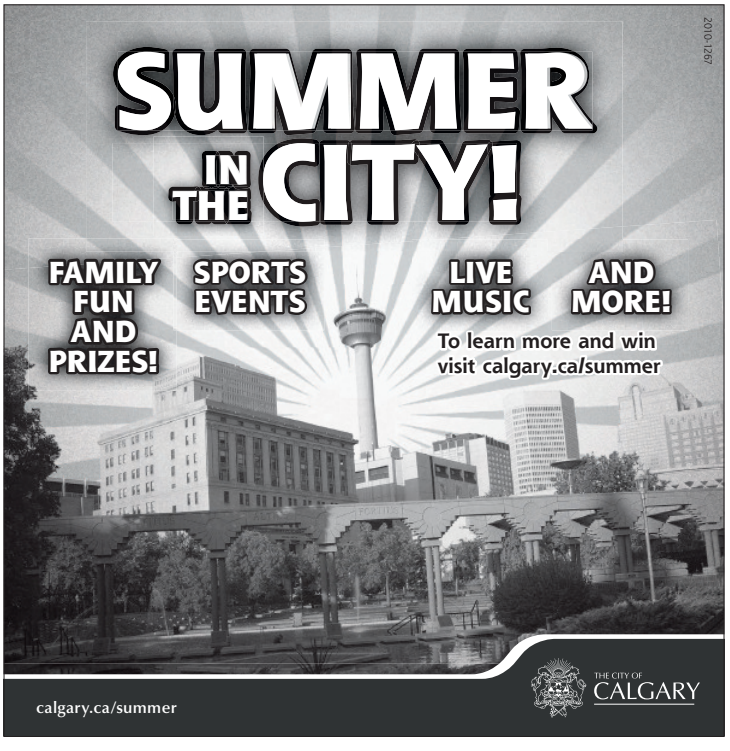
Chief looks at options in possible cutbacks

Police Chief Rick Hanson said he is considering every option after learning 120 positions could be cut from the Calgary Police Service.

"Does it mean that we may have to redeploy some of those beat officers? That is an option we're looking at, for sure," he said. "We have to ensure adequate service to the whole city, not just downtown."

Hanson said it's too early to tell what the impact of fewer officers might be, however, he added that anytime you take cops off the street, service levels are affected.

KATIE TURNER



THE VIDEO EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT

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Gunman shoots 6 dead in Egypt bus rampage

- Driver confessed to targeting colleagues on bus
- Rare case of workplace violence in Arab nation

A disgruntled employee of an Egyptian construction company yesterday opened fire on his colleagues, killing six and wounding 16, before surrendering, police and company officials said.

According to police, the gunman, a driver, pulled over the company bus in western Cairo, whipped out an assault rifle and showered his passengers with bullets.

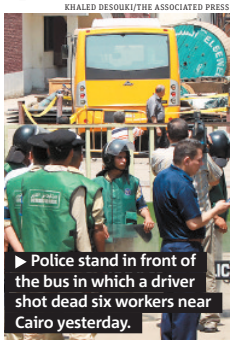
The Arab Contractors company identified the assailant as 53-year-old Mahmoud Sweilam. In a statement issued after the attack, the company said he had hidden his weapon under the bus seat and then turned himself in after the shooting, which took place just 300 metres from company premises.

Effat Abdullah, the company spokesman, said that Sweilam spent 20 years in the company, one of the largest construction companies in Egypt, but declined to comment on a possible motive for the attack.

According to the security official, the gunman appeared to have suffered severe depression after he was transferred to a new position.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KHALED DESOUKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Police stand in front of the bus in which a driver shot dead six workers near Cairo yesterday.

Spain. Sprayed

▶ A woman is sprayed with wine during the opening of the 2010 San Fermin Fiestas yesterday in Pamplona.

VICTOR CAIVANO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Fermin Fiestas start in Spain

The European country shrugged of its recent economic woes as thousands packed into Pamplona's main square to spray each other with wine as a firecracker rocket blasted off to start Spain's famous San Fermin bull-running festival.

Priest charged in $1.3M theft

A Connecticut Catholic priest was charged yesterday with stealing $1.3 million US in church money over seven years to use for male escorts, expensive clothing and luxury hotels and restaurants.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Feds file suit against Arizona

The Obama administration filed suit yesterday against Arizona over its controversial immigration law, making a legal attempt to kill the measures described by President Barack Obama as a serious threat to U.S. civil rights. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sarkozy denies secret cash

French President Nicolas Sarkozy denied a report that his 2007 election campaign received $188,000 US in secret donations from France's richest woman, saying the allegations were an effort to smear him.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama touts U.S.-Israel 'bond'

President Barack Obama and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sought to warm rocky relations yesterday, declaring after a White House meeting that any talk of a rift is unfounded. Obama said the U.S.-Israeli bond is unbreakable.

For his part, Netanyahu said of solving years of strife with Palestinians: "We're committed to that peace. I'm committed to that peace." And he said that reports of the demise of the U.S.-Israeli relationship are "flat wrong."

Netanyahu said without elaborating that he and Obama discussed specific steps that could be taken in the coming weeks to move the peace process forward. "When I say the next few weeks, that's what I mean," he said.

"The president means that too."

"The United States is committed to Israel's security ... We are committed to that special bond. And we are going to do what's required to back that up, not just with words, but with actions."
U.S. PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

The meeting between Obama and Netanyahu was their first since a troubled White House get-together on March 23.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ADRIEN VECZAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Leile Pourtavof, a friend of one of the accused ringleaders of the G20 riots, addresses the media yesterday.

Police call for probe into G20 tactics

Toronto police chief declines to comment on police services board's decision to hold independent civilian review

The Toronto police services board has called for an independent civilian review of the way that security was handled by police during the G20 summit.

In his recommendation, board chair Alok Mukherjee suggested an impartial civilian overseer chosen to conduct the review.

The yet-to-be-named independent reviewer will be chosen by the seven-member board in time for its July 22 meeting.

That individual will then have about 12 weeks to complete the review with the power to question board and police policy and actions relating to G20 security.

The review comes after more than 900 people were arrested during G20 protests, which saw vandals smash windows and burn police cars.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Voices heard?

Dozens of people attended yesterday's board meeting expecting to have their say. Many shouted out their protests but were told they needed written submissions.

WINNIPEG BOARDING SCHOOL

Abuse scandal widens

Police have named 10 more victims and have laid more than 20 new charges in a sexual assault scandal at a Winnipeg boarding school.

An 18-year-old man from China, who had already been charged with sexually assaulting, threatening and confining a younger student, now faces similar charges involving 10 other alleged victims at St. John's-Ravenscourt School. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tech mergers may not help customers

They're supposed to improve service, but often do the opposite **Customers can get lost in the shuffle**

The world's largest technology companies have been on a buying spree, spending billions to snap up smaller companies. And often the buyers say they're doing it for their customers.

As tech companies get bigger, they say, they can offer a broader variety of products and make it easier for their customers.

Yet if you ask the customers, you hear a different story. Often they get new headaches with multibillion-dollar deals by the likes of Oracle, IBM and Hewlett-Packard.

"When the smaller guys are gobbled up by bigger guys, in theory it's supposed to be better, but in our experience it's been worse."
LARRY BONFANTE, CEO, U.S. TENNIS ASSOC.

Larry Bonfante, chief information officer of the United States Tennis Association, started battling recently with one of his suppliers, which supports USTA's computer applications. Bonfante says it was bought a year ago by a large, publicly traded company. "Our service and our relationship with that company since then has gone absolutely into the tank," Bonfante says.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sweden. Protest

▶ Feminist Initiative leader Gudrun Schyman sets a wad of money ablaze yesterday in Visby, Sweden.

JANERIK HENRIKSSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Women fired up over pay

Protesters burned 100,000 kronor ($13,800) — the amount Swedish women miss out every minute in comparison to men — in a rally against unequal pay for men and women in Sweden yesterday.

Chapters, Indigo expanding products

Book lovers should expect to see more toys, teapots and trinkets in Indigo stores as the company diversifies its in-store product mix to adapt to a growing trend towards downloadable e-books.

Indigo, which operates as Indigo, Chapters and Coles, is planning a transformation that will see it operate as "the world's first cultural department store," CEO Heather Reisman told the company's annual meeting yesterday.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Reisman

Pharmacies expect help from Quebec

Pharmacy chain Jean Coutu Group Inc. said yesterday it expects Quebec to come up with measures to help it cope with a government move to drop the prices on generic drugs.

"The Jean Coutu Group strongly believes that offsetting measures need to be adopted," CEO Francois Coutu said.

The Quebec government recently announced it expects to save $164 million a year from lower prices on generic drugs.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drug rules

Quebec has followed Ontario's lead in cutting the price of generic drugs:

- **Lowest price** Quebec's drug policy requires the province to offer the lowest price in Canada.
- **Follow** Ontario decided last month to lower the prices for generic drugs.

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THE END IS NIGH. NOW PASS THE MUSTARD

Just sayin'

PAUL SULLIVAN

Greed is not good.

Look where it gets us. Not to sound like an Old Testament prophet, but unless we change our ways — and soon — the end is near.

If you don't believe me — there's a respected Wall Street technical analyst who has read the signs and warns the Dow Jones Industrial Average is about to shrink below 1,000, or 9,000 points less than it is today.

At the same time, wildlife is coughing up tarballs from Galveston to Sarasota, and the Arctic is melting.

The signs aren't good.

Nonetheless, wretched excess is alive and well, and if recent events indicate, it recognizes no class boundaries. In short, there is no class.

The Queen, for example, spent the weekend at places and events with her name on them: The Queen's Plate and Queen's Park, wearing a couple of selections from the Royal Hat Collection. She has 500 hats. I can understand one for the sun, one for the rain and one for the cold, but 500? At a time when the U.K. is suffering through the longest recession in its history (and that's some history), the Queen's hat budget needs to be trimmed. She should endure the same cuts as the rest of the government, 25 per cent across the board, requiring her to take 125 hats to the Goodwill. Off with her hats!

"My point is simple: No one gets it. From the highest to the lowest, we're cruisin' for a correction."

The ruling class is not alone in its unclassy behaviour. Wretched excess is alive and well at the trailer park end of the spectrum, too. How else to explain the annual spectacle of Nathan's Famous International Hot Dog Eating Contest, held every July 4, a great American tradition? This year's winner, for the fourth year running, was Joey (Jaws) Chestnut, who managed to choke down 54 dogs in 10 minutes. It was not a pretty sight — but that did not deter thousands of people from turning up to watch in 40 degree heat.

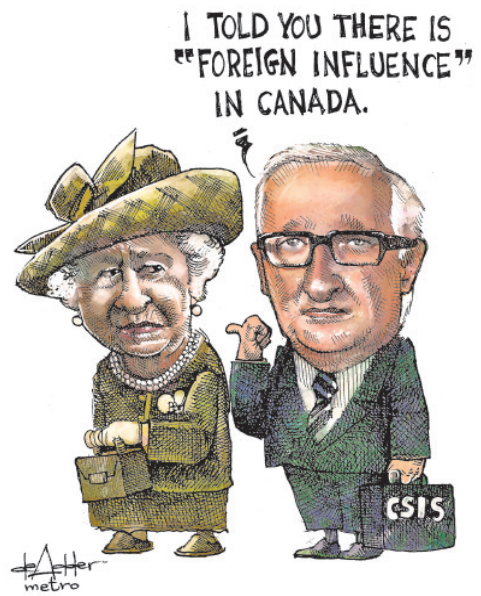
Jaws was disappointed: He was reaching for a record 70 dogs in the allotted 10 minutes. Last year, in more temperate conditions, he downed 68. His arch rival, the world's No. 3 ranked glutton, Takeru Kobayashi, who sat out this year's contest due to a contract dispute with Major League Eating, crashed the stage and threatened to give the crowd a free demonstration of virtuoso hotdog eating.

The NYPD carted Kobi off to jail and Jaws took the Mustard Belt home for another year. I am not making this up.

My point is simple: No one gets it. From the highest to the lowest, we're cruisin' for a correction.

Meanwhile, pass the mustard.

Cartoon



Noteworthy

Octopus predicts Spanish victory

The eight-legged oracle has spoken: Paul the octopus says Spain will sink Germany in their World Cup semifinal. The floppy soccer fan from Oberhausen's Sea Life Aquarium chose a mussel from a glass tank marked with a Spanish flag yesterday and ignored a tank emblazoned with Germany's colours, spokesman Daniel Fey said.

Amid intense anticipation of today's game, the eight-legged expert's pick was carried live by two national all-news television stations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

metro

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MPs and their side jobs

Letters & Tweets

We asked: Should MPs be allowed to moonlight?

TORONTO. Yes, MPs should be allowed to have their own business. But if they have a business or other job and are also an MP, they should only be paid a part-time salary.

If they have other interests besides serving the public let their wage also reflect their split interests. That's how we will get this economy back on the right track. Stop gouging the public (i.e., HST).

JAMES BROWN

We asked: Who will win the World Cup?

EDMONTON. This World Cup is already determined by the numbers:

1. Brazil won the World Cup in 1994; before that it also won in 1970. Adding 1970 + 1994 = 3,964.

2. Argentina won its last World Cup in 1986; it also won in 1978. Adding 1978 + 1986 = 3,964.

3. Germany won its last World Cup in 1990; it also won in 1974. Adding 1974 + 1990 = 3,964.

4. Therefore, if you want to know what nation is going to win the World Cup in 2010, you only have to subtract 2010 from the magic number we have determined: 3,964. 3,964 minus 2010 = 1954.

In 1954, the World Cup was won by Germany. Probably not scientific, but pretty interesting.

SHARAN PAL SANDHU

Speaking out

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE PHOTO

What's your ideal or dream summer vacation?

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Metro Minute with charitable cowboys

Some Big Hearted Cowboys are looking for some big hearted spenders to raise money for charity at their silent and live auction today from 4-7 p.m. at Heritage Park's Gasoline Alley Transportation Museum.

The marquee item, valued at $35,000, is a week-long yacht trip aboard the Toy Box II, accompanied by a captain and first mate so the buyer can relax in the hot tub. Other vacationers can buy stays in condos from Maui to Montana to Mexico. If your pocketbook is hurting this summer it's still fun to stop by and dream big!

For more information, visit bigheartedcowboys.com.

METRO CALGARY

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The Big Hearted Cowboys are holding an auction tonight.

Swede turns up heat

The second installment of the popular Millenium Trilogy novels The Girl Who Played With Fire hits theatres ◗ Series a global phenomenon ◗ Lisbeth not your average Hollywood heroine

CHRIS ALEXANDER
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

▶ Noomi Rapace stars as Lisbeth Salander in The Girl Who Played With Fire.

Who could have forseen that a series of posthumously published Swedish mystery thrillers centered around a borderline insane, kickboxing, bisexual, computer-hacking super genius street punk running around Stockholm solving sex crimes would become one of the biggest literary and cinematic franchises of the decade?

But the late Stieg Larrsson's Millennium Trilogy and their juggernaut film adaptations have accomplished just such a feat. Scandinavian entertainments that Americans are going gaga for in all their media incarnations.

This week, the middle chapter of the series, The Girl Who Played With Fire opens in select North American cities. And, although there's a new director on board for both this installment, the film's central character Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace) remains one of the silver screens most arresting female presences.

"Lisbeth is a magnificent creature," says Fire director Daniel Alfredson.

"She's both human and superhuman. She does things we wish we could do at the worst of times but she's also vulnerable."

Fire sees Lisbeth back in action a year after the events of the first film. Reporter Mikael Blomkvist (Michael Nyqvist) still pines for his former lover and partner, and — when she's framed for a rash of murders — it's up to Blomkvist to rescue his damsel. Though, with her lethal abilities, she does a good job fending for herself.

"She's had a very rough time," Alfredson says of the character.

"She has had a horrible upbringing, horrible things happened to her and you learn about some of them here and some in the final chapter (The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nes, due out later this year). So when she reacts violently or crazy to a situation, she has her reasons…"

Like its predecessor, the film is as sexually charged as it is ultra violent, especially during an extended, animalistic same-sex encounter that will no doubt leave audiences goggle eyed.

"The sex needed to be there," Alfredson believes.

"It happens early in the film and it was important to have Lisbeth have extreme pleasure and a human connection before her entire world falls apart again, which it most certainly does."

8,000,000
The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo, the first novel in the Millennium trilogy on which the films are based, has sold over 8 million copies, breaking records for international sales.

Background

- **Millennium Trilogy** author Stieg Larsson never lived to see his work reach the screen, or even published for that matter. He died of a heart attack soon after submitting his manuscripts.
- **The film version** of The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo remains the highest grossing Swedish film of all time, and an American remake — with Seven director David Fincher attached — has been announced.

2 scene

The connection

Brad Pitt is rumoured to be sought to play investigative journalist Mikael Blomkvist in the Hollywood version of the Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan for code for news on how the Bachelor breakup shows the ugly side of public splits

TV picks

Glam squad

TV Former Citytv entertainment reporter Liz West hosts the new series Rags to Red Carpet, which gives Hollywood-worthy makeovers to unsuspecting women. As with the American series What Not to Wear, the subjects are convinced to participate after seeing undercover video footage of themselves walking the streets in their habitually dowdy duds. (Cosmo TV)
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Vampire books pack serious bite

Vampire Diaries author L.J. Smith explains what makes her vampires different
Fanged ones have become more 'romantic' over time

MARIE MORIZOT
METRO WORLD NEWS

The world's current fascination with all things vampire is good news for Californian author L.J. Smith, whose gothic output includes The Vampire Diaries and the Night World series of novels.

Where do you draw inspiration from ?
I'm not sure where I find inspiration for my characters, especially my bad boys. Maybe they come from a part of my unconscious. I love bad boys best and Gabriel is a prime example. I wanted to do a vampire that didn't suck blood, but took energy directly. He was fun to write.

Have vampires changed over time?
Well, if you go back to the first vampire, Dracula, by Bram Stoker, he was cruel and evil and not really very romantic. I think that over time vampires have become romanticized, and each writer adds little rules for their own special vampires.

> **"I think that over time vampires have become romanticized."**
> L.J. SMITH, AUTHOR

How long does it take to write one of your books?
Well, I wrote the first three Vampire Diaries books in nine months! Just three months for each book. But those were short books, and today I write 600-page books. Now it takes me at least six or seven months per book.

Why did you stop writing for 10 years?

This is a sad question for me. I was just starting to write Strange Fate, a book in the Night World series when my brother in law got Stage IV cancer. I helped my sister and her two small children for 8 years and I found that with all the horror that was going on in my family I could not write. After that, my mother got lung cancer and passed away. I call her my guardian angel because after her death I began to write again.

Tell us what you are recording @metrocalgary

PVRTweets

What made you want to get a PVR?

@lunerose ability to pause live tv to attend to crying babies and the promise of commercial free tv! Can now tape kids favourite shows 2

@steveshrout my schedule doesn't always correspond with my favorite shows. PVR let's me have my shows on my time.

@chanelifoux77 I got it for lost so I could re watch the finale over and over...and now its over...waaah

Gaga beats Obama in friends primary

Flamboyant singing sensation the first living person to exceed 10 million fans on a social network

When it comes to friends, at least those of the Facebook brand, it seems Lady Gaga has more than any living person – over 10 million of them.

The singer, who's been charting a new course for pop culture, has become the first living person to reach, and apparently quickly exceed, 10 million friends on the popular social networking website.

That, according to various reports, is about 700,000 more than U.S. President Barack Obama.

Gaga's fame has been sweeping the globe like a sequined tsunami since she exploded on the charts with her hit song Just Dance in 2008.

The New York born singer/songwriter is also the first currently performing artist to tally one billion YouTube views, and her record sales, like her hair, have gone platinum.

The 24-year-old music and media sensation formerly known as Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta, is currently in the midst of her enormously successful Monster Ball Tour.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ You're looking at the officially most popular person on earth

Talking points

Clooney's court date

IT'S LIKE THE OSCARS OF THE JUDICIARY WORLD. George Clooney is being called to testify in Milan for the trial of three people accused of using his name for a fashion line, according to the ANSA news agency. "There will be a lot of people, I imagine," judge Pietro Caccialanza says, who adds that extra security has been ordered.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Look, but don't touch

Celebrity tweets

Kirstie Alley [@kirstiealley] TARGET has got the cutest toddler clothes..just picked some up for my God Daughter!NO I don't work for TARGET

Cindy Crawford [@Cindy-Crawford] Spent the day a Raging Waters for my son's birthday. Waterslides are fun at any age! We had a fantastic time!

Tom Felton [@Tom-Felton] On the way to the habbo hotel! My cabbies never heard of it though, think he's lost. Anyone know the street name?

Cancelled Diddy show a 'didn't'

Rowdy crowds waiting in line for a July Fourth pool party featuring Sean "Diddy" Combs forced the event to be shut down before he had a chance to enter. Police shut down the party early yesterday, forcing some 1,800 guests out of the Harrah's Resort Atlantic City nightclub known as The Pool.

On his Twitter feed, Diddy wrote, "I just shut down Atlantic City! The party was so crazy I couldn't even get in! 10 thousand people showed up. ... I was ready to party!"

Casino staff said that the actual crowd was not nearly that large but that they decided to cancel the event in the name of safety.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Ladies and gentlemen, please do not feed the ego

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Wait – aren't *kids* supposed to call their *dads* on Father's Day?

Kelsey sets the record straight

Kelsey Grammer is fighting back against accusations that his failure to call his kids on Father's Day is what finally convinced his wife, Camille Donatacci Grammer, to file for divorce.

"The truth is I did call my kids that evening," he says on his website. "Frankly, I was surprised that they did not call me in the morning."

The former Frasier star also took issue with a report that he'd been out on a date with a mystery blonde, who turned out to be his daughter from a previous marriage. "I do take issue with the characterization that we were smooching but surely if that were the case then even I admit it might be newsworthy in some fashion," he says.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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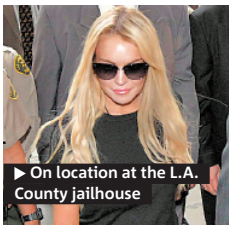

▶ On location at the L.A. County jailhouse

Lohan sentenced to prison stint

A judge yesterday found Lindsay Lohan in violation of probation in a 2007 drug case after prosecutors said she failed to attend court-ordered alcohol education classes.

She was sentenced to 90 days in jail.

The ruling came during a hearing set for the Mean Girls star after she missed a court date in May. She has been required to wear an ankle alcohol monitor since then, but was accused of drinking with it on.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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2-MINUTE GUIDE: HONOLULU

Honolulu highs

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▶ Hula your way to Hawaii

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As the only remaining royal palace in the US, Iolani is a historical landmark. Find out more about the palace's history from when it was built by King Kalakaua in 1882 with a guided tour.
iolanipalace.org

HEAR
Tropical Tunes
By day Chinatown is a bustling area where you can wander around market stalls slurping on noodles or sampling dim sum. By night, it's a musical hub with great live music. Hank's Café Honolulu on the edge of Chinatown is a friendly hotspot popular with the locals.
hankscafehonolulu.com

EAT
Fusion & Fish
Alan Wong' s restaurant is one of the best for fusion food where seafood and island specialties are dished up with a twist. Try the ginger crusted red-snapper 'onaga' or the 'poki pines', won ton poke balls served with avocado and wasabi.
alanwongs.com

For more information check out visit-oahu.com

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Mai tai
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maitaibar.com

WEAR
Flip Flops
Let's face it, its hot and sunny and you're on an island in the Pacific Ocean. Apart from hanging out at the beach or sipping cocktails in a bar, you won't be made to wear anything verging on chic and formal.

DO
Surf n' Turf
Water activities are the thing to do. Try your hand at boogie boarding, surfing, snorkeling, or challenge the waves by hopping into an outrigger canoe. Exploring surrounding islands on a kayak is great fun. Kailua Beach has some good waves but Waikiki is best for beginners.

DON'T
Miss the Hula show
Get to Kuhio beach's' hula mound at sunset (approximately 6 p.m.) in time to catch the torch lighting and hula show ritual. Some of the best performers and dancers gather here to blow on the conch shell and dance the hula halau. (Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday).
honolulu.gov/moca

SAY
"Aloha"
In Hawaiian, the term means love, peace, compassion and mercy. It can also be used as a form of greeting. Hawaii is sometimes referred to as the 'Aloha State."

DON'T SAY
"Jump!"
A short drive from Honolulu is Makapuu. The stunning shore incrusted with tidal pools and boasting an impressive backdrop of jagged cliffs have made the area popular with bodysurfers.

Take the trail that leads you to the Lighthouse for breathtaking views of the coast. Depending on the time of year (and if you're lucky) you may catch a glimpse of a humpback whale.

FLICKRCC FADEDPICTURES

▶ Mai tais!

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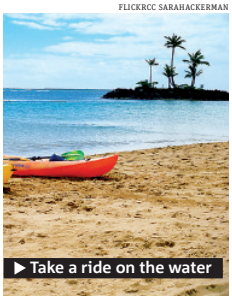

▶ Take a ride on the water

▶ Learn how to surf

3 life

Before all the thrills this summer, learn what you need to do to keep yourself safe at amusement parks. Scan this code for more details.

Life's a beach

ROMINA MCGUINNESS
METRO WORLD NEWS
TRAVEL@METRONEWS.CA

"Okinawa offers so many beautiful islands it takes your breath away."

Romina McGuinness found the bargains in Okinawa, Japan's No. 1 holiday destination.

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$130	***BIAN*** A modern take on a traditional Japanese-style pub, sushi is served at sunken tables in a sleek space of wood and glass. **r.gnavi.co.jp/f185200**	***OKINAWA PORT HOTEL*** A big white hotel with good, clean facilities well located near central Naha. **ishinhotels.com/**	***LEARN TO DIVE*** Take the PADI Discover Scuba Program, including pool training and equipment ($60 US). Okinawa is even more colourful underwater than above.

FLICKRCC RANEKO

Beach bum: Okinawa has fab beaches

Super food: Plums

Shaped like a golf ball, plums have been hailed as the new super food stars, overtaking berries with their astonishing array of health benefits

They contain high levels of vitamin C, ensuring a healthy immune system and their skin is a loaded with antioxidants — the molecules that can help slow down or prevent the production of free radicals. Plums are fat free and low in calories, and help to promote a healthy digestive track and the absorption of iron. Their consumption has also been liked to the lowered risk of age-related vision loss called macular degeneration.

ROMINA MCGUINNESS

The Monte Cristo with a twist

CARLO MENDOZA

Serves 5
Prep time: 10 min.
Cooking: 5 min.

▶ A winning combination of sweet, savoury and salty flavours.

▶ Under the shade of a tree in a park, on a blanket at the beach or even in your own backyard, this is the best time of year for a picnic ▶ Sandwiches are a seasonal must to include in any basket you're making

Ingredients :

- 4 eggs
- (1/3 cup) milk (whole, 2% or low fat)
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- 8 slices Calabrese or country-style bread
- 1 tbsp Dijon mustard
- 4 oz Fontina cheese, grated (about 1/3 cup)
- 4 slices thick-cut (about 1/8-inch) deli turkey breast
- 4 fresh apricots, pitted and thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp unsalted butter, more if cooking in batches
- icing sugar, for garnish

Topped with turkey, cheese and apricots (though if you don't have apricots handy, try apricot or fig preserve), the sweetness of the fruit, paired with the savoury turkey and slightly salty cheese is a deliciously mouthwatering combination.

Preparation:

1. In a shallow dish, whisk together eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Set aside.
2. Lay 4 slices of bread on a clean work surface and spread top-side of each with a thin layer of mustard. Top each slice with cheese, turkey and another layer of cheese. Arrange apricot slices in an even layer on top and sandwich with remaining bread. Press down slightly on each sandwich.
3. Dip each sandwich into egg mixture, turning to coat all sides.
4. Working in batches as necessary, melt butter until foamy in a large non-stick skillet set over medium-low heat.
5. Place sandwiches in skillet, cover and cook until bottom is golden brown, about three minutes. Flip sandwiches over, cover and continue to cook until cheese is melted and bottom is golden brown, about four minutes. Remove from pan.

CONTRIBUTED BY PAULA BOWMAN
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News in brief

Booming U.S. enrolment leads to cuts in marketing

EDUCATION Several American community colleges have reduced their advertising budgets because they don't have any trouble recruiting students, especially with the poor economy helping to drive up enrolment reports Inside Higher Ed. Florida-based Brevard Community College, where enrolment has grown by a third in the last three years, cut its advertising budget by 62 per cent this fiscal year. One college president told Inside Higher Ed they are not worried about the lavish advertising spending by for-profit counterpart schools because in their view if they have a terrific product, they wouldn't need to advertise so much.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dawson to tackle violence

CONFERENCE Dawson College will stage an international conference on school violence at Dawson in September 2011, which will coincide with the fifth anniversary of the shooting there, the Montreal Gazette reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

ISTOCK

▶ Author Pamela Skillings suggests escaping the after-hours getaways every so often.

Hanging out after clocking off

For co-workers who clock a lot of overtime together, the border between colleagues and amigos can slacken, or dissappear altogether

DREW HINSHAW
METRO WORLD NEWS

It's good and natural that folks who work, collaborate and trod the extra mile together often also hang together, career counsellors say. But beware, they say, of the limitations of a work friendship, as the work part has its way of spoiling the friendship.

The danger is acutely present in small, claustrophobic businesses — where chances for advancement are few and coveted — or in sales departments, where the contest for commissions can curdle a mutual trust.

But in any professional environment, workplace relationship expert Courtney Anderson urges employees to be realistic about the friendships they take on.

"I don't know why people forget the difference between work friends and real friends, but they do," she says. "To me, it's simple. If you met these people at work, they're a work friend."

Clearing personal space between office buddies can be a job of its own — after all, you work together. A slip-out-of-lunch card like, "I have a lot of work to do," may fall flat.

Nonetheless, Escape From Corporate America author Pamela Skillings suggests you occasionally escape the after-hours getaway — running errands or laps at the gym are inoffensive alternatives. If need be, she offers, invite co-workers who don't usually come out.

"Open it up to more of a group effort," she says. "That's more of a team event, instead of the same two people gossiping every day at lunch."

Anderson agrees, and adds that work friends on lunch break should keep the conversation upbeat, and minimize any slander aimed at other colleagues.

"Talk about American Idol — regular, innocuous stuff," she advises.

Too close?

- Many times, it's the friendships that have grown too close that become too physically close, Anderson says. Many harassment cases happen between pals, off campus — at Christmas parties and happy hours — where interpersonal boundaries shift.

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Get to know your professor

Professors can only go so far — the rest's all you Making a connection with your teachers can help push your grades up

DREW HINSHAW
METRO WORLD NEWS

ISTOCK

If you know your professor on a personal level you will learn and achieve more, studies show.

Over the last year, connections between undergrads and faculty are being more and more scrutinized, as number of studies — both scientific and informal — have all pointed to the same thing: Students learn and achieve more, when they have a relationship with their professor.

"If a student gets to know the professor outside of class, it helps them within the classroom," says Dr. Tod W. Burke, a professor at Radford University. "Not only does the student wish to please the professor, but the student begins to feel they will be letting them down if they do not do their best work."

Professors don't seem surprised by the recent finding. In communicating with a cross-section of more than 30 professors, most say that when a personal relationship is fostered with a student, they too feel a greater sense of accountability. And this often has an effect on grades.

"If a student has an 89.3 average and is engaging in class, it's natural to give that person the benefit of the doubt and bump it to an A," says John Mooney, a professor at Berkeley College's Manhattan campus.

"It always impresses your professors when a student comes in with a legitimate question that shows they're thinking about the material, they've been listening and they're wrestling with a concept."
LESLIE REID, PROFESSOR AT THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOSCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

But when asked the best time to approach a teacher, nearly every professor said that before and after class is not good. They said that the rare students that take advantage of office hours often do better in the course.

The perfect tactic? Bring a rough version of an assignment during office hours. Try to determine if you're on the right track before handing it in.

Workplace Law

DANIEL LUBLIN
EMPLOYMENT LAWYER WITH WHITTEN & LUBLIN LLP
DAN@CANADAEMPLOYMENTLAWYER.COM

BULLY BOSS

What happens when an employee is assaulted by a supervisor? As an Ontario court just ruled, when push comes to shove, the employer may also be responsible. Richard Ayotte was a pushy boss — literally. Ayotte was seen as critical, intimidating and aggressive, thinking it would achieve results.

When one of his staff, Marta Piresferreira, allegedly failed to book a meeting, Ayotte yelled and swore at her, refused to listen to her xplanation and pushed her into a filing cabinet. When Piresferreira followed him to his office to protest his behaviour, Ayotte threatened her with probation.

Piresferreira later returned to work expecting an apology. Instead, she was given a Performance Improvement Plan. She refused to sign and complained to the company, Bell Mobility.

The same day, Piresferreira received a letter from Bell stating it had spoken to Ayotte and that he would apologize — and then the case would be closed.

Visit metronews.ca/worklaw to see what happened.

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DO YOU USE YOUR PVR TO FAST-FORWARD TO THE GOOD PARTS?

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1 John 5:13

4 sports

Dutch in final

Netherlands head to World Cup final ● Team to play winner of Spain-Germany match

NETHERLANDS	URUGUAY
3	2

The Netherlands is in the World Cup final.

Dutch stars Wesley Sneijder and Arjen Robben scored three minutes apart in the second half as the Netherlands beat Uruguay 3-2 yesterday to advance to its first championship match since losing in 1978 to Argentina.

"We are so close," Sneijder said. "There is nothing bigger than the World Cup."

Winners of all six games in South Africa, the Oranje will face either Germany or Spain in Sunday's title game at Soccer City in Johannesburg. The Netherlands lost its other appearance in the final, to West Germany in 1974.

Both of those title-game defeats came during the golden period of Dutch soccer, and in the opposition's homeland. No such worries this time, and no country outside of Africa has had as much fan support as the Netherlands.

Inside Green Point Stadium it looked like a Florida orange grove. Outside, a Netherlands fan in a blue-and-white bodysuit stood on stilts and played a vuvuzela — badly. It was about the only thing that didn't measure up for the Dutch.

And a tournament that looked like a South American fiesta early on will end in a European showdown for the second straight World Cup. Sneijder and Robben made sure of that.

"This is unforgettable," said Sneijder, now tied with Spain's David Villa for top scorer at the tournament (five goals). "Sunday we play in the World Cup final. I have to get used to that."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Wesley Sneijder, top, celebrates with his teammates yesterday after a Netherlands goal.

Tiger turns curt with probing reporters

After another warm welcome from the Irish public, Tiger Woods became dismissive at a news conference yesterday when asked about his state of mind since the sex scandal that's wrecked his marriage.

Woods was questioned following his 3-under-par 69 in his final round of the charity J.P. McManus Invitational Pro-Am, his first foreign appearance since the turmoil.

When asked whether his liaisons with other women had been "worth it" since it cost him his marriage and endorsements, Woods replied, "I think you're looking too deep into this." He torpedoed the followup question with an icily firm "Thank you."

Woods is returning immediately to his Florida home rather than heading to Scotland to prepare for next week's British Open at St. Andrews, one of his favourite courses and where he won Opens in 2000 and 2005. Once the subject was broached, the previously easy-speaking Woods flipped a switch into staccato half-sentences.

How will you prepare? "Practising."

Where? "Home."

Why not try to play some links in Scotland beforehand? "I need to get home." Silence.

Why? "See my kids."

When asked again whether he was finding personal worries overshadowing his game, Woods clearly had enough.

"Everything's working itself out," he said.

Out on the Adare Manor Golf Course, Woods felt nothing but love and admiration from the more than 20,000 fans who lined the course five-deep to watch his every drive, approach shot and putt.

Armed with a full night's sleep, Woods breezed through a course that had befuddled him Monday, when he shot a 7-over 79 to fall near the bottom of the field of 54 professionals.

His Irish caddie, Arthur Pierse, said Woods was exhausted Monday after flying overnight following the AT&T National outside Philadelphia, where he finished 46th. He climbed back into the middle of the pack yesterday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Tiger Woods reacts after playing out of the bunker on the 8th hole at Adare Manor, Limerick, Ireland.

Wells trotting all the way to derby

Blue Jays outfielder to participate in home run contest during all-star festivities ◗ Teammate Bautista, who leads league in homers, not invited

Vernon Wells is one of the four American League representatives for next week's home run derby, while Toronto Blue Jays teammate Jose Bautista, the loop's longball leader, is not.

The announcement was made yesterday by Major League Baseball, which also said Detroit's Miguel Cabrera, Boston's David Ortiz and Robinson Cano of the Yankees will take part for the AL.

Matt Holliday of the St. Louis Cardinals and Milwaukee's Corey Hart will swing for the National League, with two more representatives to be named later.

Wells, who didn't start in yesterday's 7-6 loss to the Minnesota Twins because of a stomach illness, has 19 homers this season. Bautista and Cincinnati's Joey Votto of Toronto began the day tied for the major-league lead with 21.

"I don't know what happened there. I guess they asked the old man first," Wells said of being invited over of Bautista.

"I think it's something fun to do. Everything that you hear about guys not hitting home runs and stuff like that, I don't consider myself a home run hitter so it really doesn't matter. Hopefully I at least hit one ball out of the park."

Asked if he had been invited, Bautista replied "not yet" and seemed unfazed by word that Wells had been chosen. But manager Cito Gaston seemed surprised by the news, apparently under the impression that both his players would be going.

Either way, Gaston has no concerns about having one of his key hitters take part in Monday's derby, an event some past participants have blamed for messing up their swings.

"Let those guys go and have a good time," said Gaston. "Who knows if you're going to get back there again, so enjoy the whole thing." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Help from a friend

Justin Morneau wants Canadians to help make Joey Votto an all-star.

- The Minnesota Twins slugger from New Westminster, B.C., is urging the country's baseball fans to give the Cincinnati Reds first baseman from Toronto a northern push in voting for the final spot on the National League all-star team.
- Votto was left off the NL roster when the teams were announced, but was added to the ballot allowing fans to choose the last player for each team at the midsummer classic.

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Blue Jays slugger Vernon Wells circles the bases after a home run at Rogers Centre earlier this year.

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Good enough to be a final

Germany seeks revenge against Spain in classic semifinal match

The reigning European champion vs. the runner-up. One of the top scorers at this World Cup vs. No. 2 on the all-time list. The most dynamic team at this tournament vs. a squad that's yet to show its full brilliance. A three-time champion vs. a team craving its first title.

Sounds like a great World Cup final.

Too bad it will be the semifinals when Germany and Spain face off today at Moses Mabhida Stadium, with many expecting the winner to go on and be crowned world champion four days later. The Spain-Germany winner will play the Netherlands in the final.

"This would have been a great final, actually," Germany's Lukas Podolski said yesterday. "We want revenge for 2008. When you are in a final you want to win. We still think about that defeat, and it still hurts. We want to reach the final and we'll do all we can to achieve that."

There's a game in every World Cup that comes a round or two too soon, and Germany-Spain definitely qualifies.

Spain has lost all of two games since November 2006, and it ended a 44-year major title drought when it beat Germany to win the European Championship in 2008. David Villa shares the scoring lead at this World Cup with Wesley Sneijder (five goals), and the Spanish defence hasn't allowed a goal in the knockout stage.

Germany, meanwhile, made old rivals England and Argentina look downright silly in their knockout round games, routing them by a combined score of 8-1 to reach a third straight World Cup semifinal.

Miroslav Klose has regained his old form and, with two goals against Argentina, moved into a tie with Gerd Mueller for second place on the all-time scoring list. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MARTIN MEISSNER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Spain's Fernando Torres celebrates after scoring during the Euro 2008 final against Germany. The Germans will look to avenge that loss today.

7

Germany has played seven World Cup finals and won three of them. Spain has never reached the final and has never beaten Germany in the World Cup.

Sports in brief

Probert funeral set for Friday

HOCKEY. A funeral for former NHL forward Bob Probert will be held in Windsor, Ont., on Friday.

Probert, one of the most feared fighters of his generation, died Monday after collapsing while boating with his family. He was 45.

An autopsy was conducted yesterday and foul play is not suspected, according to a release from the Ontario Provincial Police's Essex County detachment. Autopsy results were not released.

His funeral is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. ET Friday at the Windsor Christian Fellowship church. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tour honours aggression

CYCLING. Canadian Ryder Hesjedal got to climb the podium yesterday at the Tour de France, but it wasn't quite the accolade he was after.

The 29-year-old from Victoria was honoured as the most aggressive rider in Stage 3 after a fourth-place finish.

Hesjedal launched a breakaway from the field some 13 kilometres into the 213-kilometre ride from Wanze Arenberg to Porte du Hainaut and led the way until he was caught by a group of elite riders near the end. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rutledge leads Canadian PGA event

GOLF. Jim Rutledge of Victoria shot a 5-under 67 to take the first-round lead at the Canadian PGA Seniors' Championship.

Craig Marseilles of Maple, Ont., was one shot back at 68 while Champions Tour player Rod Spittle of Niagara Falls, Ont., was two off the pace at 69.

Rutledge was 1 under after the first nine holes at RattleSnake Point. THE CANADIAN PRESS

CANADA'S hottest model event

2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown.§

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2010 Dodge Journey SXT shown.§

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Wise customers read the fine print: •, *, †, ±, §, Canada's Hottest Model Event offers apply to retail deliveries of selected new and unused models purchased between July 1, 2010 and August 3, 2010 from participating dealers. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Offers subject to change without notice. See participating dealer for complete details and conditions. •$21,488 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F+CLE) only and includes $6,500 Consumer Cash Discount. $19,988 Purchase Price applies to 2010 Dodge Journey SE (22F+CLE) only and includes $1,250 Consumer Cash Discount. See participating dealer for complete details. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes license, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. *Consumer Cash Discounts are offered on most new 2009/2010 vehicles and are manufacturer-to-dealer incentives, which are deducted from the negotiated price before taxes. Amounts vary by vehicle. See your dealer for complete details. †0% purchase financing for 36 months available to qualified customers on approved credit through Royal Bank of Canada, Scotiabank, TD Financing Services and GMAC on most 2010 Chrysler, Jeep, Dodge and Ram models, except Challenger, Caliber Canada Value Package and SE Plus, Grand Caravan Cargo Van, Sprinter and Ram Chassis Cab. Examples: 2010 Dodge Grand Caravan Canada Value Package (24F+CLE) with a Purchase Price of $21,488/$19,988 financed at 0% for 36 months equals monthly payments of $596.88/$555.22; cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $21,488/$19,988. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes licence, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ±Variable Prime Rate financing up to 84 months is offered on approved credit on most new 2010 vehicles to qualified retail customers through TD Financing Services and Royal Bank of Canada. Bi-weekly payments shown are based on 84 month terms. Variable rate shown is based on TD and RBC Prime Rate and fluctuates accordingly. Payments and financing term may increase or decrease with rate fluctuations. RBC offer is not open to residents of Quebec. TD offer is not open to residents of New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador, Yukon, Nunavut and Northwest Territories. Some conditions apply. See participating dealer for complete details. §2010 Dodge Grand Caravan SXT shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $27,695. 2010 Journey SXT shown. Price including applicable Consumer Cash Discount: $25,945. Pricing includes freight ($1,400) and excludes license, insurance, registration, any dealer administration fees and other applicable fees and applicable taxes. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Dealers may sell for less. ◊Based on 2010 EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide ratings published by Natural Resources Canada. Transport Canada test methods used. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. ‡Based on U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) scoring system for 2010 model year Dodge Grand Caravan and Journey. ^Based on January through December 2009 R.L. Polk sales total registrations. ®SIRIUS and the dog logo are registered trademarks of SIRIUS Satellite Radio Inc. ®Jeep is a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC. The Best Buy Seal is a registered trademark of Consumers Digest Communications LLC, used under license.

Understated Avalon adds some pizzazz

Toyota breaks the mould for its flagship sedan and revamps the 2011 model to attract younger buyers ◗ Lorne Drury gives the lowdown on the power and cool of the new Avalon

Power like Camry

UNDER THE HOOD Power for this front-wheel drive vehicle comes from a 24-valve, 3.5-litre DOHC V6 engine, making 268 hp and 248 lb/ft of torque. This is the same engine offered in the upscale Camry models. The V6 is mated to a six-speed automatic transmission.

Modern look

EXTERIOR From the addition of more chrome on the front grille and side rocker panels, to high-tech projector headlamps with light pipes and rear tail lamps with LED light pipes, the Avalon for 2011 has a much more modern look to it. Other new features include foldable heated power side mirrors with LED turn signal, 17-inch polished alloy wheels and prominent dual exhaust pipes.

Airbags galore

SAFETY There are seven airbags including the segment's only driver's-side knee airbag. Active front headrests and redesigned rear headrests are included as are Vehicle Stability Control, traction control, ABS with Electronic Brake Force Distribution and Brake Assist.

Smooth and soft

HANDLING On the road, the Avalon presents a smooth, comfortable, soft ride— much like you would find in its Lexus counterpart, the ES 350. This is a family entry-luxury sedan and not a sport sedan, so the ride and handling is similar to competitors such as the Hyundai Genesis and Buick Lucerne.

41,100

The new Avalon offers a better overall package than before at a more reasonable price — $41,100 — which is $4,745 less than the outgoing model.

Plenty of room

INTERIOR Inside, one of the highlights of the Avalon is the amount of rear seat legroom. Three passengers fit comfortably in the rear seats and the wide door openings and flat floor area make entry and exit a breeze. Meanwhile, all seating surfaces are leather, heated in front and with eight-way power adjustments for the driver's seat.

Sipping the gas

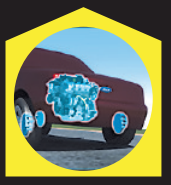
FUEL ECONOMY The Avalon is rated by Natural Resources Canada at 10.6L/100 km (27 mpg) city and 6.8L/100 km (42 mpg) highway for a combined 8.9L/100 km (32 mpg).

5 drive

Up and down

Curve Control

Ford has announced a new innovation, Curve Control, which it said is designed to help drivers maintain control of their vehicles when taking a curve too quickly.



Lexus recall

Lexus Canada is recalling nearly 3,700 GS, IS and LS models that may have foreign material contaminating the engine valve springs.

Swift + got price appeal

Suzuki model known for fuel economy If you want a car with no frills, then this car is for you

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

PHOTO COURTESY SUZUKI

▶ The Suzuki Swift + is a great car for students and others on a meagre budget.

Engineered almost solely for bottom-line pricing and good fuel economy, the Suzuki Swift + is a more common machine than you might think. Though it wears the badge of Japan's smallest auto manufacturer, the Swift + was re-badged for sale to Canadians as both the Chevrolet Aveo and Pontiac Wave. Beyond that, the actual platform for all three vehicles was from a Korean-made Daewoo model called the Kalos.

The last generation of the Swift + / Aveo / Wave was available to Canadians from 2004 to 2008 in both five-door hatchback and four-door sedan body styles.

Look for goodies like body-coloured accents, heated mirrors, fog-lamps, air conditioning, remote entry and a six-speaker stereo on the standard or optional equipment lists depending on the model you're considering.

What Owners Like

Not surprisingly, affordability, fuel economy, features-per-dollar and practicality were all major reasons that shoppers decided on a Swift + at the time of purchase. Many owners also like the styling, maneuverability and visibility offered by their their machines, too.

What Owners Hate

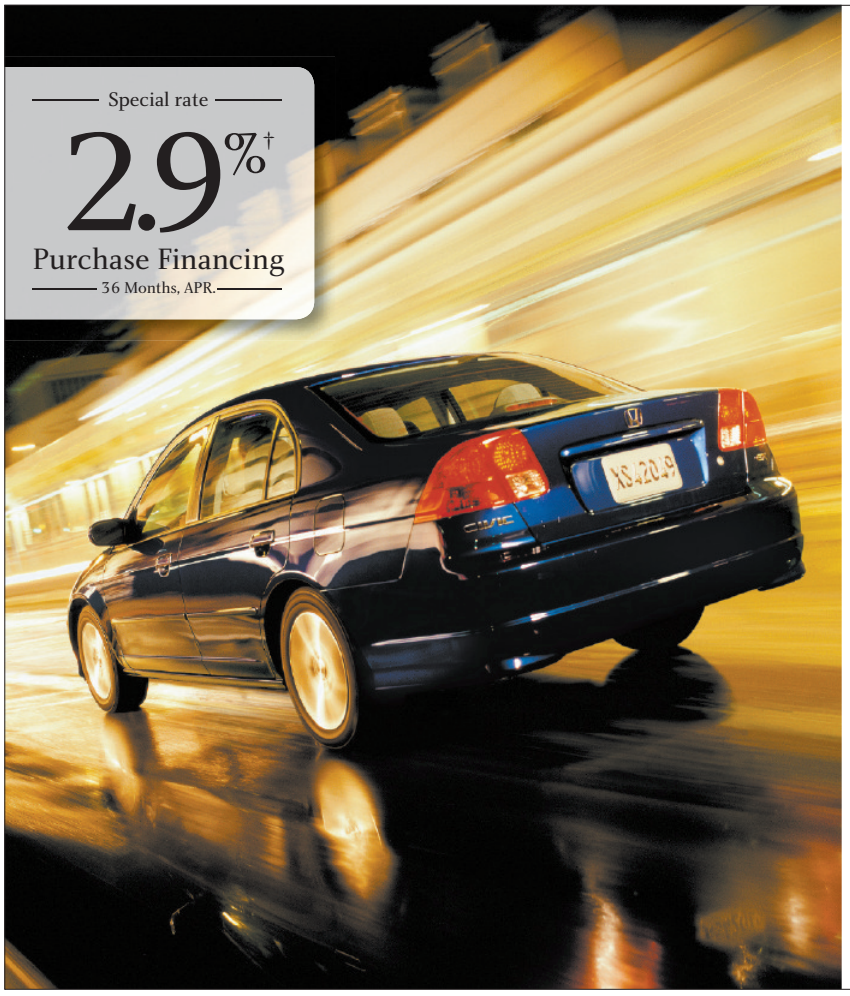
Common complaints of the Swift + include limited rear-seat room, limited storage space and a choppy ride on some surfaces. Some owners wish for more power and a quieter ride, too.

Suzuki Swift +

- **MODEL YEARS** 2004-08
- **VEHICLE TYPE** Compact sedan/five-door
- **APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE** $5,000-7,000

Common issues

Been driving a manual transmission for years? Considering a Swift + with a stick shift? Be double sure the clutch engages and returns as expected. Check for any clutch slippage or grinding during gear changes, which could indicate a problem with the clutch or the hydraulic system.



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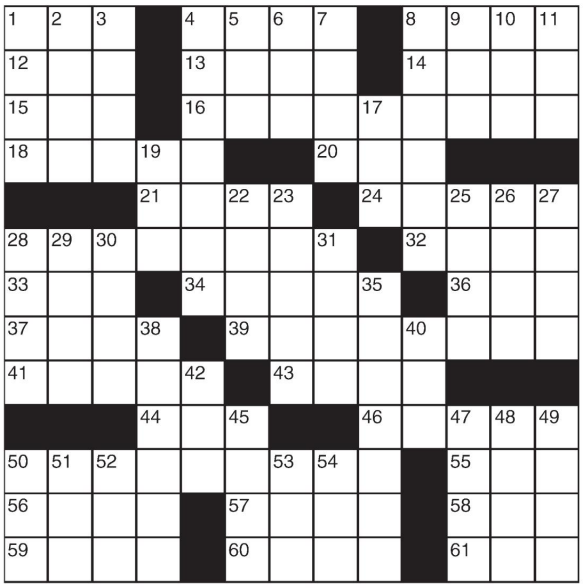
†Limited time financing offer on all Honda Certifed Used Civics available through Honda Financial Services, on approved credit. Offer only available up to 36 months on Honda Certified Used Honda Civics (2005–2009 model years). Finance example based on 2005 model: $10,000 at 2.9% per annum equals $290.37 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $453.42 for a total obligation of $10,453.42. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and fees are not included. See your Honda dealer for full details. Dealer may sell for less. Offer expires July 31, 2010.

Crossword



Across

1 Taxi
4 Recedes
8 Quick cut
12 Coloration
13 Small combo
14 Telegram
15 Historic time
16 Mustache type
18 Animal life
20 Help
21 One
24 Transfer
28 Nightspot of a sort
32 "The Thin Man" role
33 Venomous viper
34 Wheels of fortune?
36 Soong — -ling
37 Passel
39 Keyboard feature
41 Largest of the lower 48
43 In due time
44 Meadow
46 Milk dispenser?
50 Mecca for fans, maybe
55 Water (French)
56 Language of Pakistan
57 See 58-Across
58 With 57-Across, Scarecrow's TV partner
59 Agrees silently
60 Eyelid woe
61 Inseparable

Down

1 Gordon Ramsay, e.g.
2 Emanation
3 Suitor
4 Gasoline alternative
5 Support of a sort
6 Crib
7 Pop
8 Stockholm's land
9 Pen point
10 Writer Levin
11 Apiece
17 Cover
19 Sister
22 Wading bird
23 Florida city
25 Barbershop prop
26 Vicinity
27 Den
28 One of the tenses
29 Capri, for one
30 Pinnacle
31 Horse of a different color?
35 Cause of great affliction
38 Seal's cousin
40 Conclusion
42 Collection
45 Requests
47 Showroom sample
48 Deserve
49 Bit of trickery
50 Baltimore newspaper
51 Expert
52 Peculiar
53 Nipped
54 Whatever amount

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	T	A	G		L	A	I	C		C	A	T	
A	W	R	Y		I	N	T	O		O	R	E	
C	O	M	P	A	N	I	O	N		M	I	L	
			S	I	T	S		S	E	P	A	L	
O	C	C	U	R			H	U	L	A			
W	H	O	M		S	K	I	L	L	S	E	T	
N	O	M		F	L	I	N	T		S	P	A	
S	U	P	P	L	A	N	T		H	E	E	D	
		A	S	A	P		C	E	D	E	S		
D	O	R	I	C		A	S	H	Y				
O	B	I		C	O	M	P	A	D	R	E	S	
C	O	N		I	D	E	A		A	C	R	E	
K	E	G		D	E	N	T		Y	A	R	N	

Sudoku

	8	1	3			2		
				5		6		3
5	7				2			4
		5						7
	4						3	
9						1		
1			6				5	8
2		7		9				
		8			7	9	4	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

9	4	7	6	3	2	8	5	1
3	1	5	9	7	8	6	2	4
8	6	2	4	1	5	7	3	9
4	2	8	1	5	6	3	9	7
6	7	3	8	4	9	5	1	2
5	9	1	7	2	3	4	6	8
1	8	9	3	6	7	2	4	5
2	3	4	5	8	1	9	7	6
7	5	6	2	9	4	1	8	3

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

Happy 25th Birthday Mike! I love you so much baby, thank you for always being my happy place <3 xoxo
LOVE ALWAYS, BECKY

'ZZ, you are my everything!
YOUR KROSHKA.

Derek: most people say we're great together. Well, ain't that the truth! I love you!
DARIN

Sara, I love you more then anything! See you in 9 days beautiful lady! Xoxo
STEPHEN

Sophie L, you are a very special, beautiful, talented girl. I feel so lucky to have you as my daughter. I love you so much.
MOM

Happy 45 months Cathy! I love you <3
PVNN

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Min 8° Max 22°	Min 10° Max 25°	Min 11° Max 27°

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist
BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta". **WEEKDAYS 6AM**

Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 A family problem that has been worrying you will disappear as if by magic today. The reason it worked itself out was because you did not interfere. That should give you a clue how to handle an affair of the heart issue too.

♉ Taurus April 23-May 21 There are people out there who believe it isn't right that you should speak your mind, that certain words and phrases are unacceptable. That's nonsense. You are free to say what you think any time you like. Exercise that freedom today.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Someone has taken advantage of you once too often and now you must cast them into outer darkness – or maybe just cross them off your party list. No matter how much they beg for forgiveness don't give in – or it will happen all over again.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You seem to be hitting all your targets and fulfilling all your ambitions now that the Sun is transiting your birth sign. Good for you, but don't forget that not everyone is having it so easy. What can you do to ease a loved one's pain?

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You have endured a lot in recent weeks but you have to admit that the experience has in some indefinable way made you stronger. Later this month you will get the chance to put that strength to good use. For now, just relax.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Success comes in many forms, not all of them related to fame and fortune. Your current level of success can be measured by how many friends rally round when you need a helping hand. Yes, you really are that popular.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 The Sun is now firmly situated in the career area of your chart and you are strongly advised to make the most of it. Do something out of the ordinary. Show employers and other important people that you've got what it takes.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 You will find it very easy to get others to see things your way. The only danger is that if your way is the wrong way they won't be too happy about it. Are you going to let that possibility worry you? Of course not.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You need to be a bit more ruthless in your business dealings, especially if you like to believe that other people are motivated by kindness and generosity. Sadly, it's not always true.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 It may be easy enough to avoid a challenge today but if you do it will only come back at you tomorrow or the day after. It will also give your rivals the impression that you are afraid to act.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Don't waste time and energy tackling other people's problems when you've got issues of your own that need to be sorted.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Put the finishing touches to something you have been working on for months, maybe even years. It's GOT to be ready in time for the solar eclipse on the 11th.

● SALLY BROMPTON

Caption contest

RICK SCUTERI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

FRANK AUGSTEIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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